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REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-29 are pending in the present Application. No claim has been canceled, amended, or added, leaving Claims 1 and 3-29 for consideration upon entry of this Response. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Double Patenting

Claims 1 and 3-29 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-45 of copending Application No. 10/648,609 ("the '609 application"). Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out the alleged, potential obviousness-type double patenting issues between the claims of the present application and those of the '609 application. However, as there are no allowed claims in the '609 application at this time, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the provisional rejection.

Claims 1 and 3-29 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claims 1-12 of copending Application No. 10/648,647 ("the '647 application"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The '647 application and the instant application are directed to different subject matter. The '647 application is directed to a method of preparing a polymeric material by filtering solutions of poly(arylene ether), poly(alkenyl aromatic), and a solvent through one or more filtration systems to provide a material having reduced levels of particulate impurities. The '647 application, however, does not involve a melt filtration process of filtering a polymer melt.

On the other hand, the instant application is directed to a method of purifying a polymeric material by melt blending poly(arylene ether) and poly(alkenyl aromatic) in an

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extruder to form a melt and melt filtering the melt through a filtration system to produce a filtered polymeric material. Unlike the '647 application, the instant application involves melt blending and melt filtering, but does not involve filtering a polymer mixture solution. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and removal of the provisional double patenting rejection.

Notwithstanding the above argument, the Applicants point out that there are no currently allowed claims in the '647 application. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the provisional rejection at this time.

Claims 1 and 3-29 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claim 1 of copending Application No. 10/648,640 ("the '640 application"). The '640 application is a commonly owned application wherein a Notice of Allowance has been issued. Applicants respectfully submit herewith a terminal disclaimer to overcome the double patenting rejection over the '640 application claims. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-29 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over claims 3-49 of copending Application No. 10/922,194 ("the '194 application"). Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out the alleged, potential obviousness-type double patenting issues between the claims of the present application and those of '194 application. However, as there are no allowed claims in the '194 application, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the provisional rejection at this time.

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It is believed that the foregoing remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-1131.

Respectfully submitted,

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